



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 21 2016

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dr. Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.
Executive Director & CEO
American Chemical Society
1155 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Connelly:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, 2016, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy and Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter regarding concerns with the open burning of munitions and toxic chemicals at Department of Defense facilities, as well as other privately owned facilities, across the United States.

The EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management currently has an effort underway to explore the use of hazardous waste treatment technologies as an alternative to open burning and open detonation treatment activities. One key aspect of this effort includes assessing the availability of protective, proven and readily available alternative treatment options for various energetic hazardous wastes, including the treatment technology you referred to in your letter that is currently being used at Camp Minden. A main focus of the above described effort seeks to identify treatment technologies that may be used to reduce the amount of energetic waste that is open burned and open detonated.

The EPA has been discussing our efforts with numerous other federal entities to this end, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Chemical Safety Board. We are also discussing our efforts with private sector entities, including the American Pyrotechnics Association, the Institute of Makers of Explosives and a number of companies with explosives treatment technology capabilities. As we continue our efforts, we are interested in how the American Chemical Society can assist us in our efforts to identify and promote the use of alternative treatment technologies for energetic hazardous wastes.

I have asked Ken Shuster, of my staff, who has been working on these issues for several years to contact you about your offer of assistance. In the meantime, if you have any questions feel free to contact Ken at shuster.kenneth@epa.gov or at (703) 308-8759.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathy Stanislaus", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management